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ARTICLES OF FAITH,
AND
FORM OF COVENANT,

ADOPTED BY THE

EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL

CHURCH IN SOUTH BOSTON.

TOGETHER WITH THE

NAMES OF THE MEMBERS.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF PUTNAM AND DAMRELL.
1832.

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D BOSTON. EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

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Articles of faith, and form of covenant.

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adopted by the Evangelical Congregational Church
in South Boston, together with the names of the
members. Boston, Putnam, 1832.
24p.

SHAW CARP

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NL 36-2332

EVANGELICAL
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
SOUTH BOSTON.

PRINCIPLES AND RULES.

Of the rights of the church and its members.
This church has a right, we believe, to be independent, so far as relates to its internal organization, and the regulation of its affairs. We believe it to be amenable to no other ecclesiastical body, except by its own consent, or according to regular and established congregational principles. With these exceptions, it controls the admission, discipline and removal of its members, according to our understanding of the word of God.

This church will extend to other evangelical congregational churches, and receive from them that fellowship, advice and assistance, which the law of Christ requires. It will extend the usual rights of communion, and prac-

tice the transfer of members to other churches holding what we believe, to be the essential doctrines of the gospel. It holds itself bound to regard the decision of regular mutual councils, and to seek the promotion of peace, with all the churches of our Lord.

Every member has a right to church privileges, unless forfeited by misconduct, and when thus forfeited, he or she can be deprived of them only by regular process. When accused, each member has a right to know specific charges, and to have an open and candid hearing.

Discipline. This is the exercise of that authority which Christ has appointed in his church, the designs of which are the removal of offences, the purity of the church, the vindication of the honor of Christ, and the benefit of the offenders themselves.

Offences are of two kinds, public and private. Private offences, are such as are known only to an individual, or at most to a few. These are not to be brought before the church unless those means of reconciliation have been used, which are laid down by Christ in Matthew xviii. 15, 16. It is the duty of every member who has aught against another,

immediately to seek its removal, according to the spirit of the gospel. Public offences may come under the immediate cognizance of the church, but even then, it is proper and expedient for the church to appoint individual members or committees to converse privately with the offenders, in order to reclaim them, and obtain satisfaction. If these means are unavailing, the church shall exercise such discipline as the nature of the case, and the laws of Christ seem to require.

Disciplinary offences we consider to be, immoral conduct; breach of express covenant vows; neglect of acknowledged religious or relative duties; and avowed disbelief of any of the essential articles of our faith.

Officers and Standing Rules. The permanent officers of the church are the Pastor and Deacons. The Pastor shall be a member of this church, and preside at all meetings when present. The Deacons according to seniority, shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Pastor, or call on some one else to do it; shall assist in the administration of the sacrament, and aid the Pastor generally, in the spiritual care of the flock.

There shall be an annual meeting during the first week in January, when the following annual officers shall be chosen (by ballot, or from the nomination of a committee) with such other committees as may be deemed expedient, viz :

A Clerk to record the doings of the church.

A Treasurer to collect the taxes on the pews and the subscriptions, to pay the salary of the Pastor, and other necessary expenses; who shall report at each annual meeting, and hold his office till another be chosen.

An Examining Committee, of whom the Pastor and Deacons shall be a part, to examine all applicants for admission to the church.

A Standing Committee, to attend to the secular affairs of the church.

A Committee on singing.

All meetings for business shall be opened with prayer. The church will meet for church business at the close of each preparatory lecture, and other meetings may be called by the Pastor or Deacons, or at the request of five members.

The church will meet for devotional exercises to promote their growth in knowledge and grace, every Friday evening; the time however, may be changed, or the meeting omitted

by the Pastor and Deacons, if circumstances require.

The stated season of communion shall be as often, at least as once in two months. A preparatory lecture shall be preached during the week previous to each communion, which each member shall consider it his or her duty to attend.

Previous to the stated administration of the Lord's Supper, a general invitation shall be given to members in regular standing or other churches, holding the same great doctrines of the gospel with ourselves, to commune with us, and to the congregation to remain and witness the solemnities.

Of admission to membership, and dismissal.
All candidates for admission, whether by profession or letter, shall be examined by the examining Committee, and such as they approve, shall be propounded publicly, at least two weeks. It is also deemed desirable that the Committee should, previous to their admission, meet them a second time, explain to them our Articles of Faith, and obtain their assent to the same, at which meeting, any member of the church has the privilege of being present.

Members may be admitted at each communion season. At the close of the preceding preparatory lecture, the Examining Committee shall present in a written report, the names of such as they approve, and the church may then vote to receive them, when they shall publicly enter into covenant with us, and subscribe to our confession of faith and covenant of fellowship in Christ.

Such as join by profession, will come out publicly before the congregation, on the communion sabbath, when the covenant will be read to them by the Pastor. When he shall tell them they are affectionately received as members, the church will rise in token of the same, and as a pledge to fulfil their part of the covenant. The Pastor will also publicly announce the names of such as have been received by letter.

No individual who joins us can cease to be a member of this church unless regularly dismissed, recommended and received to another church, or excommunicated for some offence.

Any member wishing to withdraw from this to another church or denomination should signify in writing his or her wishes and reasons, stating the particular church which he or she

wishes to join, and apply in a proper spirit to be released from his or her obligation to this church. Any other mode of withdrawing will be deemed irregular and censurable; and this church holds itself bound to grant dismissals and recommendations to members in good standing, who conscientiously prefer any other evangelical denomination of Christians when they apply as stated above.

As we are bound by our covenant vows to watch over each other, when members remove from us, and do not transfer their church relation, or be with us at least one Sabbath in a year, the church will, by its pastor, or a corresponding committee, write them at least annually, inquiring with the affection which members of one church should have to each other after their spiritual welfare, and requesting an answer.

It shall be a standing rule hereafter in the admission of members that each of them sign the following pledge.

Whereas the use of intoxicating liquors has been found by experience to be the source of evils of incalculable magnitude, both as to the temporal and eternal interests of individuals, families and communities, and whereas the pre-

valence of this vice has such a fatal influence in hindering the success of all the common means which God has appointed for the moral and religious improvement of men, and whereas their duty to God and their fellow men requires each professor of christianity to abstain from every thing that shall in any degree retard the progress of the Gospel; Therefore Resolved, that we, members of the Evangelical Congregational church in South Boston, will abstain from the use of distilled spirits ourselves, and that we will not allow the use of them in our families, except as a medicine, nor provide them for the entertainment of our friends or for persons in our employment, and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of them throughout the community.

Resolved, that it is expected that members of other churches who commune with us, will in like manner abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

We, the Subscribers, feeling desirous to unite in the formation of an Evangelical Congregational Church, in South Boston, and considering it important to our comfort and fellowship, that we should harmonize in sentiment, do engage to adopt the following Confession of Faith and Covenant; and shall expect the same will be adopted by all those who shall hereafter be admitted to our Communion.

We believe that the Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testament, are given by inspiration of God; and consequently are to be received as the only rule of our faith and practice.

As to a system of doctrines, we believe in those which are usually styled "the doctrines of grace."

Particularly; **FIRST**, We believe in one living and true God: subsisting in three persons, the **FATHER**, the **SON**, and the **HOLY GHOST**, one in essence, and equally possessing the same Attributes and the same Perfections.

SECOND; We believe that the purposes of God, like his existence and his perfections, are immutable and eternal.

THIRD; We believe that God has one unchangeable plan of government,—that his own glory is the great end of all his works,—that his perfect plan is executed in infinite wisdom and benevolence, and that, in the execution of it, his providence extends to all his creatures and all their actions.

FOURTH; We believe that mankind are by nature entirely depraved, destitute of holiness, under the dominion of sin, exposed to the wrath of God, and deserving of endless perdition.

FIFTH; We believe that the vessels of mercy are chosen of God from eternity, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love.

SIXTH; We believe that JESUS CHRIST is the SON OF GOD, coeternal and coequal with the FATHER,—that he took upon him a true body, and a rational soul, and by his sufferings and death made a complete atonement for sin; so that the offers of salvation are freely and indiscriminately made to all men.

SEVENTH; We believe that mankind are free moral agents, and though God executes the

good pleasure of his will, he does it in such a manner that their moral freedom is not destroyed nor impaired.

EIGHTH; We believe that mankind are capable of complete compliance with all the requirements of the Gospel, but that such is their love of sin, that this compliance never takes place without an influence from above.

NINTH; We believe that a radical change of moral character or renovation of the heart, which is usually styled regeneration, is essential to salvation, and that this change is always produced by the special influences of the HOLY SPIRIT.

TENTH; We believe that those who are born of GOD will persevere in holiness unto life-eternal; and that they will finally be justified, not by their own works, but by the righteousness of Christ.

ELEVENTH; We believe that all those who exercise true faith in the REDEEMER, will, when they leave the world, be immediately received up to glory; and that all those who remain in unbelief till death, will immediately be doomed to the world of misery.

TWELFTH; We believe that there will be a general resurrection of the dead; that there will be a general judgment, when the whole human family will be separated into two different classes, the righteous and the wicked,—that the sentence passed upon both these classes, will be final and decisive,—that the happiness of the righteous will be eternal, and that the misery of the wicked will also be without end.

THIRTEENTH; We believe that **CHRIST** has instituted in his church the sacraments of the **LORD'S** Supper and Baptism; the former to be administered to believers only; the latter, to none but believers and their offspring. As to church government and discipline, in common with our sister churches, we adopt the Congregational form, agreeably to what is usually styled "the Cambridge Platform."

With regard to the admission of members into this church, we consider it indispensable, that every candidate should be examined, and exhibit satisfactory evidence of being a subject of renewing grace.

Believing that it will be for our mutual comfort and edification, as well as for the glory of

GOD, we now make a public profession of our faith, associate together as a company of believers, and without reserve, dedicate ourselves to him who has loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

PRESENT OFFICERS.

JOY H. FAIRCHILD, *Pastor.*

Deacons.

JEREMY DRAKE, Consecrated March 2d, 1828.

MARCUS WHITING, " November 1st, 1829.

ALVAN SIMONDS, *Clerk.*

SAMUEL GALE, *Treasurer.*

FORM OF ADMISSION.

You have presented yourselves in this public manner before God, to dedicate yourselves to his service, and to incorporate yourselves with his visible people; you are about to profess sincere love to him, sincere contrition for all your sins, and faith unfeigned in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, to enter into the solemn covenant, to receive the FATHER, SON and HOLY GHOST, as they are offered in the Gospel, and to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the LORD blameless. We trust you have well considered the nature of these professions and engagements. The transaction is solemn, and will be attended with eternal consequences. God and the holy angels are witnesses. Your vows will be recorded in heaven, to be exhibited on your trial at the last day. Yet be not overwhelmed. In the name of CHRIST you may come boldly to the God of grace, and provided only, you have sincere desires to be his, may venture thus unalterably to commit yourselves, and trust in him for strength to perform your vows.

Attend now to the Covenant.

In the presence of God, his holy angels, and this assembly, you do now solemnly dedicate yourselves to God the FATHER, as your chief good, to the SON OF GOD as your Mediator and head, humbly relying on him, as your Prophet, Priest, and king; and to the HOLY SPIRIT as your Sanctifier, Comforter, and guide. To this one God, FATHER, SON, and HOLY GHOST, you do heartily give up yourselves, in an everlasting covenant, to love and obey him. Having subscribed the Articles of Faith and Government, adopted by this Church, you promise to walk with us in conformity to them, in subordination to all the

orders of the Gospel, and an attendance upon all its ordinances, and that by the aids of the DIVINE SPIRIT, you will adorn your profession, by a holy and blameless life. This you severally profess and engage. In consequence of these professions and promises, we, the members of this church, (*here the church will rise*) affectionately receive you as members of this Church, and in the name of CHRIST, declare you entitled to all its visible privileges. We welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessing of the Gospel, and on our part engage to watch over you and seek your edification, as long as you shall continue among us; should you have occasion to remove, it will be your duty to seek, and ours to grant a recommendation to another church; for hereafter you can never withdraw from the watch and communion of saints, without a breach of covenant. And now, beloved in the Lord; let it be impressed on your minds that you have entered into solemn circumstances, from which you can never escape. Wherever you go these vows will be upon you; they will follow you to the bar of God, and in whatever world you may be fixed, will abide upon you to eternity. You can never be again as you have been; you have unalterably committed yourselves, and henceforth you must be the servants of God. Hereafter the eyes of the world will be upon you, and as you demean yourselves, so religion will be honored or disgraced. If you walk worthy of your profession, you will be a credit and comfort to us; but if it be otherwise, you will be to us a grief of heart and a vexation. And if there is a woe pronounced upon him who offends one of CHRIST's little ones; woe, woe, to the person who offends a whole Church.

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. May the LORD guide and preserve you till death, and at last receive you and us to that blessed world, where our love and joy shall be forever perfect. Amen.

NAMES OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS AT FORMATION.

Those marked * have deceased, those marked † have been dismissed to other churches, and those marked ‡ have been excommunicated.

‡ RUFUS BALL,	POLLY SIMONDS,
* ISAAC THOM,	† ANNA HEWINS,
SOPHIA THOM,	† SUMNER FULLER,
† THOMAS HAMMOND,	† ABEL HEWINS,
ABIGAIL FENNO,	CHARLOTTE HOWARD,
HANNAH DEWIRE,	PHEBE HOLLIS.
† JOSEPH JOHNSON.	

February 8th, 1824.

† Rebecca Osgood,
Maryann Dunham,
† Abigail Townsend,
† Abigail F. Spear,
† Mary H. Fuller, *Andover.*

March 14th, 1824.

Abigail (Harrington,) *Windsor, Conn.*
Bathsheba Bradford, *Old South.*

October 10th, 1824.

† Samuel Gale—*3d Church, Salem,*
† Salome L. Johnson, *Pres. Church, Salem,*
* Hannah Hawes, *Glستنbury.*

November 14th, 1824.

Hannah Gannage.

April 10th, 1825.

Polly Babbit,
Lucy Babson,

October 9th, 1825.

Jane Riley.

June 11th, 1826.

† Josiah Curtis,
† Joshua Goodale, *3d. church, Salem,*
Jeremy Drake, *Milton.*

August 14th, 1826.

Eleanor W. Elms, *Dorchester.*

October 8th, 1826.

Ruth Bray.

November 12th, 1826.

† Lucy Shaw.

June 10th, 1827.

* George Lane,
Isaac Ewell,
Alvan Simonds,
* Abigail Drake,
Lucretia B. Blasland,
Caroline Fenno,
Rachel Damon, *Braintree.*
Frisilla Elms, “

December 7th, 1827.

Rev. Joy H. Fairchild, *East Hartford.*

January 6th, 1828.

George Carpenter, *Green St.*
‡ Barnum Field, *Old South.*
† Frances E. Field “
Artemas Simonds,
Thomas Blasland Jr.
† Eliza A. Hunting,
* Ruth Haskell, *Newburyport.*

May 4th, 1828.

Sophia M. Belcher, *Campton, N. H.*

Eliza Page, *Andover.*

Ebenezer Hayward, *Park St.*

Sarah Hayward, “

† Arabella Mitchell,

† Mary Gale.

July 6th, 1828.

† Richard Dewerson.

September 3d. 1828.

* Jacob Pike,

Foster Waterman,

† Eunice M. Penniman,

William Park, *Union Church.*

November 2d. 1828.

Elizabeth Covil,

William Hayward,

Martha Hayward,

Elizabeth Covil 2d.

Mary Covil,

Eliza T. Blood,

Elizabeth A. Colburn.

January 4th, 1829.

* Elizabeth Eayrs, *Old South.*

† Marcus Whiting, *Pine St.*

† Eunice N. Whiting “

† Benjamin Parker, *Reading.*

Susan Parker, “

Andrew Mein,

Margaret Mein,

Mary Malone,

† Hermon Aikin,

Ebenezer Tilton.

May 3d, 1829.

Mary B. Fairchild, *East Hartford.*

William Aikin, *Newport, N. H.*

† Margaret Ingalls *Dunbarton, N. H.*

† Putnam Ingalls,

Clarissa Carpenter,

Mary Park, 2d.

† Elizabeth Gage.

July 3d, 1829.

Seth Harlow, *Plymouth, Mass.*

Mary A Hale, *Park St.*

† David Winn,

Barker B. Kent,

† Rebecca P. Goodale.

September 6th, 1829.

→ Mary Nickerson, *Park St.*

David B. Elms,

Eliza Carson,

→ Thankful Dalton.

November 1st, 1829.

→ David Diman Jr. *Plymouth.*

Betsy Peterson, " *near Hardy*

* Priscilla N. Peterson, "

Arvilla P. Blood, *Exeter, N. H.*

May 2d, 1830.

→ Mary Park, *Windham, N. H.*

Betsy Sumner, *Antrim, N. H.*

Melinda Stickney,

* Rebecca Tisdale,

Maryann Milligan,

→ Abigail Pratt,

Hannah Dewire, 2d.

Sarah Fruean,

→ Fanny R. Smith,

Sarah H. Kent,

† Jane Fairbanks,

→ Joseph Park,

† John G. Greenough,

† Robert Park.

July 4th, 1830.

John Pattee, *Thornton, N. H.*

* Eliza Freeman, *Cambridgeport.*

† William Stetson,

† Rebecca F. Stetson,

Elizabeth B. Knox,

† Elmira Totman,

Eveline Bradford,

Eunice Johnson,

† George Morrill.

November 7th, 1830.

John Blood.

May 1st, 1831.

† Abram Cole,

Hannah Gurney,

§ Betsy B. Aikin,

Mary Deluce,

Hannah Talbot,

Elbridge G. Wooster,

† Lydia Fairbanks,

† Joseph H. Towne, *Lynn.*

July 3d, 1831.

Ruthy Clarke, *Park St.*

Samuel Stickney,

Sarah Hunting.

January 1st, 1832.

Lydia G. Prescott, *Salem,*

Washington F. Fisher, *Dedham.*

Maryann Fisher,

Mary G. N. Prescott,

George W. Prescott,

Maria Chamberlain, *Newbury*

† Caroline Eaton,

Harriet Eaton,

Charlotte B. Plummer,

Sally B. Harrington.

March 4th, 1832.

- + James Morrill Jr.
+ Permelia F. Morrill.

May 6th, 1832.

John T. Tarlton, *Hampstead, N. H.*
Lucy W. Simonds, *Bowdoin St.*
Luther Whiteher,
Charlotte Wey,
Jerusha Sherman.

Sept 2d, 1832.

- + Heman Holmes, *Salem St.*
Mary B. Holmes, "
Sarah A. Park, *Union Church,*
Nancy L. Whiteher " "
Hannah Reynolds, *Portsmouth,*
Josiah Curtis, *Dedham.*

November 4th, 1832.

- + Ashur Adams, *Park St.*
+ Emily Adams, "
Tolman G. Smith, *Mariners Church,*
Abigail Smith, *Portland.*

Mrs Abigail Burgle
Hamden Latham

Miss Melchior Griffin
Josiah H. Crosby

Mrs Eunice S. Crosby

Mrs Abnelia Gutterer

Miss Mary Lincoln

" *Margaret Marchant*

Mrs Elizabeth Living

Saban A. Tyler
 Mrs. Mary Tyler 1812 078
 " Maria W. Whitman
 " Elizabeth Elms
 " Elizabeth S. Torlin
 Elijah Packard
 " Susan S. Packard
 Cranston Howe
 " Sarah M. Howe
 Noah B. Kent
 " Fanny Dewing
 " Roxana D. Dunbar
 Miss Clarissa A. Amable
 Elizabeth F. Palmer
 Thomas H. Dunham
 A. C. Otis Howard
 Peter Clemensen
 Mrs. Elizabeth J. Palmer
 Nathl D. Vose
 Mrs. Mary S. Vose
 " Lucy Dennett
 " George L. Ballbill
 " Sarah J. Chipman
 Miss Elizabeth A. Harwood
 Wm. D. Adams

Mrs Mary K. Adams
Miss Sarah B. Withington
Mrs Harriet W. Hammond
Asa H. Holden

Mrs Ann Louisa Holden

" Eunice Drake

Samuel D. Greene

" Susan Greene

" Harriet Rogers

" Sarah Corder

" Ann Taylor Kent

Miss Mary E. Clarke

William S. Crosby

Mrs Linda M. Crosby

" Thija Shield

" Sylvia Silliman

Jen. A. Silliman

" Martha Thayer

Joseph Vinton

" Betsy S. Vinton

Miss Eliza A. Vinton

" Harriet A. Vinton

Mrs Harriet A. Pierce

Mrs Lucinda Smith

" Rebecca Jones

Lamir Meriel

" Amanda Meriel

John Crocker

" Mary A. Crocker

John Rose

" Mrs Rose

" Eliza W. Lamson

Mrs Oliver Mahson

Fischell Drake

Mrs Nancy L. Drake

" Mercy Child

" Maria Tilton

Mrs. Abner R. Burgess

James H. Haskell

Mrs Hannah H. Haskell

" Catherine Robertson

Mrs Comfort M. Matthews

Mrs Jane Ann Donally

" Rebecca Ventress

" Hannah Jewalding

" Sarah R. Holman

Mrs H. Freeman

Arcturus C. Sanborn
Mrs Charlotte White
" Harriet W. Stinson
" Hannah J. Chamberlain
Miss Rebecca Chamberlain
Mrs Sarah E. Gardner
" Rebecca J. Freeman
Miss Mary J. Marchant
" Esther Howard
Albert J. Wright
Miss Lydia Curtis
Helen Rutledge

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